# Keeping in Touch

News and notes from
the Universal Fellowship of Metropolitan Community Churches

January 1993

## Europe Holds Multi-Lingual Conference

For the first time ever, a UFMCC district conference met in a country where English is not the first language.

The European North Sea District (ENSD) made history by holding its district conference in Hamburg, Germany, Nov. 12-14. The conference also set a new ENSD record for the largest attendance, with more than 140 people gathered from nine countries, including 60 from the United Kingdom. Norway and Switzerland were represented for the first time. MCC Hamburg and its pastor, Rev. Thomas Friedhoff, went out of their way to make the conference the success that it was.

"It's a turning point for the district and our Fellowship," said Rev. Hong Tan, district coordinator. "We learned a lot from this conference about being trans-national, trans-lingual and trans-cultural. If you want to do it, you can do it."

Inspired by the success of the Hamburg meeting, the conference decided to hold the 1994 ENSD conference in Paris, France.

The district Women's Secretariat, HIV/AIDS Team, and laity each coordinated one of the three conference worship services. Everything in all the worship services was translated into German and English, with the written liturgies also translated into French and Danish. Music from all those countries was also included.

The main speakers were Rev. Elder Troy Perry and Dr. Elizabeth Stuart, a Catholic theologian and author of *Daring to Speak Love's Name*, a book of lesbian and gay prayers and services. Americans attending included Rev. Delores Berry, Ms. Judy Kiser, Rev. Steve Pieters and Dr. Shedrick Wise.

During the conference, Rev. Ian Westby, national ecumenical officer for the United Kingdom, convened the first meeting of UFMCC national ecumenical officers and liasons from Europe.

*The Women's Secretariat leads worship at the European North Sea District Conference.*

"It was just a marvelous conference really," said Rev. Elder Jean White.

The district conference coincided with the 20th anniversary of MCC London, the first UFMCC church in Europe. An article about the anniversary will appear in *Keeping in Touch* in February ❐

## Christ MCC Coordinates Hurricane Relief

"The hardest sermon I ever had to preach was the Sunday after the hurricane," said Rev. Michael Nikolaus, pastor of Christ MCC in Miami, FL.

With winds gusting up to 169 miles per hour, Hurricane Andrew devastated Miami on Aug. 23-24. Still without electricity on the Sunday after the hurricane, Christ MCC worshipped outdoors using a portable generator.

"It was hard to preach because I was talking to people who lost everything they had worked for all of their lives. In situations like that, people always ask, 'Where was God?'" Rev. Nikolaus said.

"I tried to tell them that God is in all the people who helped. There was a phenomenal outpouring of concern and compassion in this community like I've never seen before."

The church is located "just north of the zone of total destruction" and escaped with only a broken window and some downed trees, he said. Of the church's 300 regular attenders, seven totally lost their homes and 75 had significant damage to their homes.

"Worse than the storm was the aftermath," Rev. Nikolaus said. "The storm knocked out power to 96% of the county. We had no power for 11 days. The entire county water supply was contaminated. It blew down 85% of the traffic signals in the county, so it took forever and a day to get anywhere."

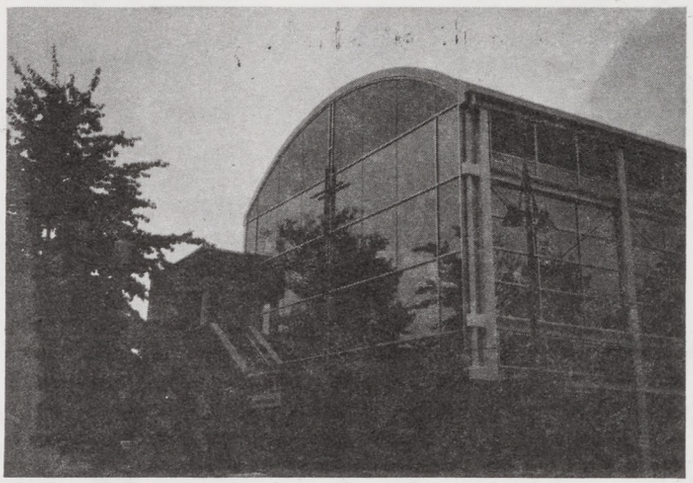
Despite the difficulties, teams of Christ MCC members reviewed their mailing list of 700 people and tried to visit everyone they hadn't seen or heard from to find out if they needed assistance. "A lot of places we couldn't find because the street signs were obliterated," he said.

Thirty people gathered to clean up the church grounds on the Saturday after the hurricane.

The church received $10,000 in direct aid, mostly from churches in the Southeast District, and supportive calls from across the United States. Christ MCC distributed all the funds to people in

*(see Christ MCC, page 6)*

*Cathedral of Hope MCC, Dallas, TX*



*MCC Washington, DC*

Photo by Wayne Smith

# New Church Buildings Open Their Doors

Two of UFMCC's largest churches — in Dallas, TX, and Washington, DC — held their first Sunday worship services in newly constructed buildings Dec. 20.

Meanwhile, two mid-sized UFMCC congregations—in Omaha, NE, and Boca Raton, FL — have also purchased new buildings in recent months.

Both Cathedral of Hope MCC, Dallas, TX, and MCC Washington, DC, held their first services in new facilities on the same day. The originally scheduled completion dates for the buildings were months apart.

The $3 million Cathedral of Hope MCC seats 1,000 people. It is the world's largest lesbian and gay church, with 1,000 members. "The fact that this building exists at all is a testament to the power of God to enable people to triumph over adversity," said Rev. Michael Piazza, pastor. "This is more than just a building, it is the realization of a dream for this congregation." Dedication ceremonies are set for Feb. 19-21.

MCC-DC's new church, which cost $1.5 million, seats approximately 350 people. "Moving into our new ministry center is evidence of God's faithfulness," said Rev. Larry Uhrig, pastor. "It proves to me that we should never give up on our dreams and visions, but when we wait on them they come to us. It is a wonderful Christmas present to the Washington, DC gay and lesbian community."

On Oct. 25, MCC Omaha, NE, dedicated a church building purchased in July for $77,500. "It seats 160, although we had 228 seated at our dedication service with Rev. Troy Perry," said Rev. Brian Hanlon, associate pastor. He noted that in the months since they moved into the new building, average attendance has doubled from the 55-65 range up to 100. The church is pastored by Rev. Matthew Howard.

Church of Our Savior MCC, Boca Raton, FL, recently purchased a five-bedroom house on a 1.7 acre tract for $167,000 as a permanent home for the church. A new sanctuary will be built in 1993 to seat 381 people. "We feel we are blest to have the phenomenal growth that we have had since our founding two and half years ago," said Rev. John Jacobs, pastor. "We attribute our success to the fact that we are a spirit-filled and spirit-led congregation." ❐

# Chair Lift Installed

*By Rev. Nori Rost*

After many years of consciousness-raising and fund-raising, and months of construction, MCC Long Beach, CA, dedicated a newly installed chairlift to enable physically challenged people to gain access to the second-floor sanctuary.

Rev. Houston Burnside of MCC San Diego, CA, preached at the Nov. 1 service and dedicated the chairlift to the glory of God in widening the outreach of the church to include the differently-abled. Rev. Burnside, a quadriplegic, was also the first person to use the lift to reach the second-floor sanctuary.

Rev. Dusty Pruitt, senior pastor of MCCLB, said, "This is something that we've needed ever since we moved into this building. It's gratifying to see it finally completed." Rev. Nori Rost, associate pastor, agreed: "One of my top priorities when I came to MCCLB four years ago was to see a chairlift installed," she said, adding that her own consciousness was raised when she attended the six-week Orientation to MCC Pastoring in 1988 which was held in MCCLB facilities. ❐

*Keeping in Touch* is a monthly publication of the Universal Fellowship of Metropolitan Community Churches. We are a church of the lesbian and gay community, open to all. Our mission is to call people to new life through the liberating gospel of Jesus Christ, confront injustice through Christian social action, and create a community of healing and reconciliation.

*Keeping in Touch* may be freely copied for distribution in UFMCC. Portions may be reprinted in UFMCC church publications, with attribution. For other distribution, please request permission. Subscriptions are free upon request.

Send address changes, news and ideas to: *Keeping in Touch*, 5300 Santa Monica Blvd, #304, Los Angeles, CA 90029; (213) 464-5100.

Editorial Board:
Rev. Elder Troy D. Perry, Moderator
Mr. Ravi Verma, Director of Administration
Rev. Kittredge Cherry, Editor

Deadline for each issue: 15th of previous month.
Ms. Nancy Fackrell, Typesetting

# A History of UFMCC Structural Development

*By Rev. Kittredge Cherry*

UFMCC has been re-inventing itself regularly since its founding by continually changing its structure to keep pace with its growth. The Elders' Task Force on Structures and Systems (ETFSS) was created in 1990 to recommend the next structural developments in UFMCC. The following historical overview of government structures and systems in UFMCC is presented to pave the way for discussion and action on Task Force recommendations at General Conference XVI, July 18-25 in Phoenix, AZ.

In its 25-year history, UFMCC has grown from a loose federation of local church groups governed by a Board of Elders and clearly led by MCC Los Angeles, CA, to a bona fide denomination that is increasingly large, diverse and democratic. It has always been structured hierarchically in the sense that binding decisions are made by elected representatives at various levels, and clergy status automatically grants conference voting rights.

## A Loose Federation Forms (1968-1972)

UFMCC traces its origins to Oct. 6, 1968, when Rev. Elder Troy Perry led 11 men and one woman in the first worship service of what was to become MCC-LA. The congregation that morning included one person of color (a Hispanic), one Jew and one heterosexual couple.

The original Fellowship bylaws were based on the bylaws of its first congregation, MCC-LA. Rev. Perry began writing the MCC-LA bylaws even before holding the first worship service, and completed them soon after. His resources were his knowledge of his former church (the pentecostal Church of God of Prophecy) and the bylaws of Hyde Park Congregational Church, a Los Angeles church pastored by one of his friends. The MCC-LA bylaws were modified into the original UFMCC bylaws by Rev. Elders Perry, Richard Ploen, John Hose and Lou Loynes. This relatively homogeneous group, all white men serving on the MCC-LA board of directors, became UFMCC's original four elders at the first General Conference in 1970. Representatives of eight MCC congregations attended the conference, where the main business was adoption of the bylaws.

Under the first bylaws, government consisted of the local church, the annual General Conference, and the elders, whose functions were all business-related. They were subject to a vote of confidence every four years. Each church gave 5% of its income to the elders (not UFMCC) and set aside 5% locally for missions. The stated purpose of UFMCC was to bind the church together in the "congregational" tradition.

The 1971 General Conference amended the bylaws to divide the congregations into seven districts, appoint district coordinators, establish district conferences, and establish District Boards of Home Missions (forerunner of today's District Committees).

At an emotional worship service at the 1972 General Conference, leaders of UFMCC's 35 churches came to a new understanding of the Fellowship as a permanent denomination. That year also marked the licensure of UFMCC's first clergywomen (Rev. Elder Freda Smith and Rev. Lynn Hallett) and establishment of the National Board of Evangelism and World Mission (later to become World Church Extension).

## A Denomination Takes Shape (1973-1984)

The bylaws were revised almost totally in 1973, providing UFMCC with the denominational structure that supported a period of diversification and intense U.S. growth. To create the new structure, the word "congregational" was removed from the bylaws, the term of office for elders was set at three years (extended to four years in 1977), the Board of Elders was expanded to its present seven members, bicameral voting in clergy and lay houses was established, the 5% Fellowship tithe was raised to 8%, and the Bylaws Committee was established to coordinate future bylaw changes.

These trends continued over the next decade, as General Conferences became biennial (1977) and the quorum was reduced from 75 to 66% (1979). Fellowship tithes were raised to 10%, and a 2% district contribution was mandated. A 1977 bylaw change specified that properties of local churches that dissolve or leave UFMCC would revert to the Fellowship.

Greater inclusivity was reflected in both structure and demographics. The 1973 revision brought the first inclusive language editing of the bylaws. UFMCC's first clergy of color were licensed in 1974 (Rev. Sylvanus Maduka and Jose Mojica). Rev. Maduka, a Nigerian, was also the first person from outside the United States to be licensed. Between 1973-84, the first women, non-Americans, people of color and lay people were elected elders. A variety of structural changes were made for lay empowerment in this period, including allowing lay people to serve as district coordinator and adding one lay representative to each District Board of Home Missions. A 1981 bylaws revision affirmed "the universal priesthood of all believers."

## Decentralization Empowers Districts (1985-1993)

UFMCC assumed its present form in a major restructuring approved at the 1985 General Conference. The new organization shifted much authority to the districts, UFMCC's intermediate level of government. The highlights were: The elders' role was defined as pastoral and the General Council, comprised of the elders and district coordinators, was created to govern UFMCC between General Conferences. The General Council became responsible for proposing the budget, so that program planning and budget preparation were done together for the first time. District Conferences were deemed "legislative," granting them authority to make decisions binding on all churches in the district. District Boards of Home Missions were eliminated and District Committees established. Church assessment to the district was raised from 2% to 5%. This restructuring was proposed by the Commission on Government Structures and Systems, which was dissolved when its proposals were adopted.

UFMCC structure has remained almost the same since 1985. Meanwhile, international growth has put new systemic pressures on UFMCC. From 1985-91, the number of churches outside the U.S. nearly doubled from 30 to 55, while the U.S. growth rate for the six-year period slowed to 43%, with the number of churches rising from 149 to 214. One out of five MCC churches is now outside the U.S., and 1992 marked the first year that a district conference was held in a country where English was not the first language (Hamburg, Germany).

## Looking to the Future

All proposals for major restructuring at recent General Conferences have been referred to ETFSS. Issues being considered by ETFSS include the procedure for setting district boundaries, the role of lay pastoral leaders, and the proportion between Fellowship and district tithes. ETFSS is also developing recommendations on international structures that will nurture and serve local church bodies in the future, including review of the frequency and representation at General Conferences.

Upon the request of ETFSS and the recommendation of the elders, the 1993 General Conference will be asked to begin participating in a process for structural reorganization of UFMCC. The process will span several years. A study guide and bylaw changes recommended by the elders will be presented to the 1993 conference. ❐

# "Oil of Gladness" Offers Comfort

*By Rev. Kittredge Cherry*

Rev. Christine Oscar knows that people — herself included — need to share their grief.

"Grief is like a hole. We need to find creative ways to fill that hole and make it a launch pad," she said.

In 1990 she did just that by helping launch *Oil of Gladness*, a quarterly newsletter of the grief and bereavement ministry in the Gulf Lower Atlantic District.

"The real intent of *Oil of Gladness* is to give people a place to grieve and a passage toward life," said Ms. Mary Moore, editor of *Oil of Gladness* and pastor of MCC Charleston, SC. "The newsletter itself is really the creation of Christine's vision. She asked me to be involved because administration comes more easily to me."

Rev. Oscar is the main writer for *Oil of Gladness* and pastor of St. Mary's MCC in Greensboro, NC. "It got birthed out of a personal tragedy in my life," she said. Her sister Vicki committed suicide, leaving Rev. Oscar overwhelmed by grief.

*Rev. Christine Oscar*

"Out of Vicki's death and my mishandling of the grief at a district conference, I said that we've got to have a way to inform people about grief. So I wrote a proposal," she said. Her proposal, which became the basis of the grief and bereavement ministry, said that the district needs to create ways for people to tell their stories, to educate people on grief, to have a place for memorials, and to offer an all-day grief workshop at district conferences and local churches. To her knowledge, GLAD is the only district with this type of grief program.

"It's important for people to understand that we need to grieve and to understand the ways to grieve," said Rev. Jay Neely, district coordinator. "Our district recognizes the value of this program and is supporting it because we, like every other district, have had a major impact from deaths due to AIDS."

Typical articles from recent issues of *Oil of Gladness* include "Finding a Way to Let Special Days Be Special," "Talking About the 'Untalkable,'" and "'But It's Only a Dog!' Loss of Pets, a Misunderstood Grief." Rev. Oscar said she wants to cover all forms of grief, such as the loss of a pastor or moving away from a beloved home.

Rev. Oscar has studied grief at a hospice, seminars, and on her own, and has extensive experience as a grief counselor. She sees AIDS causing unprecedented kinds of grief that call UFMCC and others to develop new concepts and materials for handling it.

"There isn't anything that deals with the compounded, complicated process we've got of losing surrogate family over and over again. You deal with *deep* grief over and over again. I believe it's our responsibility to celebrate the lives of those who have died, to celebrate our lives, and get over survivor's guilt," she said.

Send articles and subscription requests to: *Oil of Gladness*, 2010 Hawthorne Dr. #4, N. Charleston, SC 29418. ❐

# Long-Term Couples Sought for March on Washington

**Washington DC**
**APRIL 25, 1993**

**DON'T MISS THIS ONE!**

America's longest-term lesbian, gay and bi couples will be honored at The Wedding, a massive ceremony of commitment to be held April 24, as part of The March on Washington.

"I want to celebrate the love and fidelity of these three extraordinary couples and show Middle America and the world that our relationships last as long as those in the heterosexual community, even with all the cultural pressures against us," said Rev. Troy Perry, founder and moderator of UFMCC.

Rev. Perry will conduct The Wedding at 11 a.m. Saturday, April 24, as part of The March on Washington for Lesbian, Gay and Bi Equal Rights and Liberation. He expects The Wedding to set a world record as the largest ceremony of its kind ever held, with at least 4,000 gay, lesbian and bi couples exchanging vows. The Wedding will be non-sectarian and is open to all lesbian, gay and bi couples and their friends.

UFMCC will give all three long-term couples a free round-trip airline ticket to Washington to attend the ceremony. The three couples will be introduced at The Wedding.

He requests all couples who believe that their relationship may be one of the oldest in the U.S. to write to: Rev. Troy Perry, The Wedding, UFMCC, 5300 Santa Monica Blvd., Suite 304, Los Angeles, CA 90029. ❐

**Washington DC**
**APRIL 25, 1993**

**DON'T MISS THIS ONE!**

# Happy New Year

## From The Fellowship Staff!

# Around The Fellowship

## Praises

On Dec. 7, the U.S. Supreme Court let stand a ruling requiring the U.S. Army to offer a "rational basis" for its decision to discharge **Rev. Dusty Pruitt** after she acknowledged her lesbianism. Rev. Pruitt pastors **MCC Long Beach**, CA.

**MCC New Haven**, CT, received a $500 grant from the Northeast District to provide wheelchairs and walkers to people with AIDS.

**Rev. Carol West, Cathedral of Hope MCC**, Dallas, TX, was elected to the board of the Greater Dallas Community Relations Commission.

**Rev. Sandra Robinson**, president of Samaritan College, presented a ground-breaking paper, "African American Lesbians of Faith and Christian Church and Community," Nov. 21 at the American Academy of Religion meeting in San Franicsco, CA.

A local counseling center is loaning its bus to **Church With A Vision MCC**, Longview, TX, so that transportation can be provided to people with HIV.

UFMCC clergy credentials were approved for **Rev. John Broussard** by the Clergy Credentials and Concerns Committee Oct. 1 in extraordinary action based on his experience and poor medical prognosis due to HIV. He is a member of **MCC Lafayette**, LA. ❐

## Corrections

The "Top 20 Tithes" for September 1992 included some errors. The correct information is: MCC Richmond is in Virginia; St. John the Apostle MCC, Ft. Myers, FL, was #20 with $357.14; and Good Samaritan Parish MCC should not have been listed.

Rev. David Eckert joined Delta Harvest MCC, Stockton, CA, as clergy-on-staff in November 1991 and was appointed interim pastor in September 1992; this information was incorrect in the obituary in the December 1992 *Keeping in Touch*. ❐

## Prayers

**Rev. Lin Stoner**, pastor of **Redeemer MCC of Flint**, MI, is mourning the death of her father on Nov. 17.

**Mr. William Mertes** died Dec. 15; for eight years he was the spouse of **Rev. Ken Bland** of Stockton, CA. Mr. Mertes had been suffering serious complications from surgery for a malignant brain tumor some years ago. Due to his spouse's illness, Rev. Bland had resigned in late 1992 as pastor of **Delta Harvest MCC** in Stockton.

**Ms. Brenda Blizzard**, executive director of **Excel International**, is mourning the death of her brother on Dec. 8.

**Rev. Arlene Ackerman**, Mid-Atlantic District Coordinator, was injured and her car was totalled in a traffic accident Nov. 13; she attended district conference a few days later and is recovering well. ❐

## Transitions

**Rev. June Norris** celebrated her retirement Dec. 11 after 20 years of UFMCC ministry. She served most recently as pastor of **Church of the Holy Spirit MCC**, Des Moines, IA.

**Rev. Bob Arthur** leaves the staff of the Fellowship offices and Samaritan College to become interim pastor of **MCC Albuquerque**, NM, effective Jan. 1.

**Rev. Paul Whiting** is the new principal of Samaritan College in Europe.

**Rev. Jan Skaggs** has accepted the pastoral call of **New Heart MCC**, Tacoma, WA; she concluded her service as pastor of **MCC Waco**, TX, Nov. 15.

**New Hope! MCC** of Santa Rosa, CA, has called **Rev. Earle Lewis** as pastor, effective Nov. 29. He is transfer clergy from the United Methodist Church.

**Rev. Bruce Barton** resigned as pastor of **Resurrection MCC**, Salt Lake City, UT. ❐

## Top 20 Tithes - Nov. 1992

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| 1. | Church/Holy Spirit MCC, Ft. Lauderdale, FL | US $ | 2,851.84 |
| 2. | MCC Washington, Washington, DC | | 2,552.96 |
| 3. | MCC of the Resurrection, Houston, TX | | 2,454.57 |
| 4. | MCC Toronto, Ontario, Canada | CAN $ | 2,190.24 |
| 5. | MCC Long Beach, Long Beach, CA | | 1,799.32 |
| 6. | MCC San Francisco, San Francisco, CA | | 1,688.55 |
| 7. | St. Luke's MCC, Jacksonville, FL | | 1,530.51 |
| 8. | King of Peace MCC, St. Petersburg, FL | | 1,408.33 |
| 9. | MCC New York, New York City, NY | | 1,339.46 |
| 10. | Church of the Trinity MCC, Sarasota, FL | | 1,249.60 |
| 11. | Harvest MCC, Denton, TX | | 1,089.51 |
| 12. | Agape' MCC, Ft. Worth, TX | | 1,088.52 |
| 13. | River City MCC, Sacramento, CA | | 1,084.39 |
| 14. | Christos MCC, Toronto, Ontario, Canada | CAN $ | 1,025.39 |
| 15. | Church of Our Savior MCC, Boca Raton, FL | | 964.20 |
| 16. | MCC Pittsburgh, Pittsburgh, PA | | 931.59 |
| 17. | Christ Chapel MCC, Santa Ana, CA | | 630.56 |
| 18. | First MCC of Atlanta, Atlanta, GA | | 628.06 |
| 19. | Morning Star MCC, Worcester, MA | | 600.26 |
| 20. | MCC Albuquerque, Albuquerque, NM | | 598.37 |

{These figures reflect the 10 percent of each local church's monthly income that is reported to Fellowship headquarters.}

## Top 20 Per Capita - Nov. 1992

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| 1. | MCC of the Disciples, Washington, DC | US $ | 32.53 |
| 2. | Maranatha Fellowship MCC, Houston, TX | | 31.89 |
| 3. | MCC Pittsburgh, Pittsburgh, PA | | 26.24 |
| 4. | Church of the Resurrection MCC, Chicago, IL | | 25.38 |
| 5. | Faith Eternal MCC, Springfield, IL | | 25.20 |
| 6. | Harvest MCC, Denton, TX | | 24.00 |
| 7. | Calvary MCC, Redwood City, CA | | 23.39 |
| 8. | Spirit Song MCC, Little Rock, AR | | 22.42 |
| 9. | Christos MCC, Toronto, Ontario, Canada | CAN $ | 21.77 |
| 10. | MCC New York, New York City, NY | | 21.09 |
| 11. | MCC Augusta, Augusta, GA | | 20.45 |
| 12. | Emmanuel MCC, Spokane, WA | | 20.28 |
| 13. | Golden Gate MCC, San Francisco, CA | | 20.02 |
| 14. | Ke Anuenue MCC, Honolulu, HI | | 19.08 |
| 15. | MCC Johnson County, Lenexa, KS | | 18.87 |
| 16. | Redeemer MCC, Flint, MI | | 18.70 |
| 17. | New Heart MCC, Tacoma, WA | | 18.52 |
| 18. | MCC Philadelphia, Philadelphia, PA | | 18.41 |
| 19. | MCC In the Country, Spring Valley, CA | | 17.86 |
| 20. | Open Door MCC, Boyds, MD | | 17.76 |

{These figures reflect average individual weekly offering to the local church.}

*Surrounded by denuded trees on the grounds of Christ MCC, longtime deacon Mr. Tad Lincoln helps with hurricane relief.*

## Christ MCC

*(continued from page 1)*

need and also offered temporary housing.

"A lot of people didn't need money as much as they needed person-power, so we provided a lot of labor," Rev. Nikolaus said. Ms. Mari Castellanos, student clergy, served as Christ MCC's disaster relief coordinator. ❐

## Classifieds

### TO PLACE YOUR AD

Cost is $15 for the first 25 words or less. Additional words are 70 cents per word. Numbers and abbreviations count as words. All classifieds must be prepaid in U.S. funds. All copy for *Keeping in Touch* Classified Advertising is subject to the approval of the Editorial Board. Mail ads to: Keeping in Touch Classifieds, 5300 Santa Monica Blvd., #304, Los Angeles, CA 90029.

### EVENTS

"Home to MCC Los Angeles," a weekend to kick off the celebrations of UFMCC's 25th anniversary, will be held Jan. 29-31 at MCC-LA. Rev. Brenda Hunt, pastor of Agape MCC, Ft. Worth, TX, will be the keynote speaker. MCC-LA invites all persons who have served MCC-LA in the past, including former board members, deacons and clergy. For more information please call MCC-LA, (213) 930-1600.

The 1993 Large Church Conference will be held May 6-11 in New Orleans, LA. Those planning to attend are asked to contact Shawn Newton, Cathedral of Hope MCC, (214) 351-1901, by Jan. 31. It is open to senior pastors of UFMCC churches with average Sunday attendance of 250 or more, at least three full-time staff, and listed on the Top 20 Tithes.

### MAIL ORDER

A Liturgical Calendar especially designed for use in the UFMCC and particularly useful in the nations of the North American Continent is available free of charge by inquiring of MCC Silverlake, 3621 Brunswick Avenue, Los Angeles, CA 90039 and enclosing SASE.

### POSITIONS AVAILABLE

MCC of the Living Spring, Eureka Springs, AR, is seeking candidates for a pastoral vacancy. For more information, contact MCC of the Living Spring Pastoral Search Committee, P.O. Box 365, Eureka Spring, AR 72632 or call (501) 253-9337.

Pikes Peak MCC, Colorado Springs is seeking a full-time pastor beginning Summer 1993. Please send a resume and letter of intent to PPMCC Pastoral Search Committee, c/o Jan Michel, P.O. Box 6591, Colorado Springs, CO 80934-6591.

## General Conference Nears

Registrations are now being accepted for General Conference XVI, which will celebrate UFMCC's 25th anniversary.

The first set of information packets on General Conference XVI was mailed in mid-December by the Fellowship offices.

"For All The Nations: Celebrating 25 Years of Ministry" is the theme of the conference, which will be held July 18-25 at The Pointe in Phoenix, AZ. ❐

## Input Sought on Motions

The General Council invites UFMCC members to give their input on how the following policies or procedures might effect them. The motions below have been passed by the General Council as First Readings, and will be submitted for final adoption as Second Readings at the March 1993 Council meeting. Please submit any written responses to the Clerk of the General Council through the Fellowship Offices by February 15, 1993.

▼ Moved that in order to better reflect the inclusive nature of the UFMCC each appointing body or individual at the local, District and Fellowship level shall monitor the composition of the body to which appointment is being made. The following information, as applicable, will be taken into account as we attempt to ensure balance and equal representation on local, District, and Fellowship programs; which should include, but not be limited to:

a) Gender (showing the truth that in Christ there is no male or female).

b) Age (benefitting from the perspectives of our young people and our seniors).

c) Country of Residence (reflecting that we are an international Fellowship).

d) Race/Ethnicity (acknowledging the great contribution of people of color as well as white people to our church).

e) Sexual Orientation (recognizing that MCC welcomes non-gays and bisexuals, as well as gays and lesbians).

f) Physically Challenged (so that we are not erecting further barriers to God's people).

g) District (providing balance and perspective from our entire Fellowship).

h) Status of the Church in which they hold membership (recognizing that New Works, Commissioned and Chartered all have important perspectives).

i) Clergy or Laity (reflecting our commitment to the priesthood of all believers).

j) Theological Diversity (acknowledging the spiritual diversity within the Christian faith).

▼ Moved to place a moratorium on creation of new program agencies beginning with April 1, 1993 until such time as appropriate criteria and processes are developed by the Elders' Task Force on Structures and Systems and reported to the Board of Elders for recommendation to General Conference. Considerations will be given to all existing policies and procedures for development and approval of new programs. (NOTE: This motion has been requested by The Elders' Task Force on Structures and Systems and recommended by The Board of Elders.)

▼ Moved that the second sentence of B.102.a (the "late tithes" section of the *Policy and Procedures Manual*) be changed to: "The District Coordinator, after notification by the Fellowship Treasurer of congregations listed as in arrears, can, in a pastoral way, intervene to assist the congregation." ❐

## Samaritan Orientation Set

Samaritan College's Orientation to MCC Pastoring program will be held May 16 to June 26 at American University in Washington, DC. (These dates include arrival and departure days.) The program will include Track II, May 16-28, followed by Track I, May 30-June 26. ❐